reforms in power sector in spite of scarcity of water resources;

(b) whether Government is formulating any plan to grant the status of special State to Rajasthan in view of the said fact;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) The Government of India has started a scheme in 2000-01 called Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) to provide systematic finance to enable State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/ Utilities to take distribution sector reform. The scheme has been rechristened as Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (APDRP) in the year 2002-03. APDRP has two components. Under incentive component, assistance is provided as full grant to a State equivalent to 50% of the reduction in operating cash tosses of power utility(ies). Agrant of Rs. 137.71 crores has been released to Rajasthan as incentive during 2003-04 under APDRP.

Under investment component of the APDRP, which is for assisting States in improving distribution network, special consideration has been accorded to Special Category States namely all the North Eastern States, Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. These States get APDRP assistance in the form of 90% grant and 10% loan. Remaining States get the assistance in the ratio of grant and loan on 1:1 basis. Rajasthan is covered under Non-Special Category States.

The Special Category States covered under APDRP are those States which have been recognized as Special Category States by the National Development Council.

Electrification of **villages**

2309. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the next two years around one lakh villages will be electrified in the country;

(b) if so, the number of villages in Orissa that will be electrified out of the above; and

(c) by when all the villages in the country will be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) According to the National Common Minimum Programme, rural household elec-trification is to be completed in five years. This would entail electrification of all un-electrified villages and habitations.

Government of Orissa has been asked to formulate an action plan for the attainment of this objective.

Increasing the percentage of grants under APDIP

†2310. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide 50 per cent of the project cost for reforms in sub-transmission and distribution networks under the Accelerated Power Development and Improvement Programme out of which 50 per cent amount is in the form of grant and 50 per cent is in the form of debt;

(b) whether the Central Government have any plan to provide 90 per cent of the amount allocated under this scheme as grant and 10 per cent of that as debt in view of the different steps taken by the Government of Rajasthan for reforms in the power sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir. Under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), funds are provided through a combination of grant and loan to the State Governments as additional Central Plan Assistance. In respect of Non Special Category States, APDRP provides 50% of the project cost and the ratio of grant and loan is 1:1. SEBs/Utilities have to arrange remaining 50% of the cost from their own resources or loan from Power Finance Corporation (PFC)/Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)/Financial Institutions (FIs). In respect of Special Category States (all North Eastern States, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jammu & Kashmir), APDRP provides 100% of the project cost in the ratio of 90% grant and 10% soft loan.

(b) No, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.